



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte speaks as he meets with President Joe Biden in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

Netherlands says it will send Patriot assistance to Ukraine

By AAMER MADHANI and MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte during a meeting with President Joe Biden on Tuesday said that the Netherlands plans to "join" the U.S. and Germany's efforts to train and arm Ukraine with advanced Patriot defense systems. Rutte in a brief appearance with Biden did not detail whether the Dutch are ex-

pected to send Patriot systems, take part in training or offer some other assistance related to deployment of Patriots. Rutte said he also spoke with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday about the Netherlands' efforts.

"We have the intention to join what you are doing with Germany on the Patriot project," Rutte said.

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Parliament unanimously approves TPEF 2023 budget



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Netherlands says it will send Patriot assistance to Ukraine

Continued from Front

"I think that it's important we join that and I discussed it also this morning with Olaf Scholz of Germany."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre confirmed that Biden and Rutte discussed ongoing efforts with Patriots, but referred questions about the Netherlands' intentions to the Dutch government, which did not immediately provide clarity.

Rutte spoke about the potential assistance as Ukrainian troops arrived at Oklahoma's Fort Sill Army base to begin training on operating and maintaining the Patriot missile defense system. The Patriot is the most advanced surface-to-air missile system the West has provided to Ukraine to help repel Russian aerial attacks. "Training has begun," Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said. "As we've talked about before, that training will last for several months, and train upwards of 90 to 100 Ukrainians on use of the Patriot missile system."

Biden was also looking to use Tuesday's meeting with Rutte to nudge the Netherlands to further limit China's access to advanced semiconductors with export restrictions.

The Biden administration has been trying to get the Netherlands on the same page since the U.S. Commerce Department announced in October new export controls aimed at China. The restrictions are intended to limit China's ability to access advanced computing chips, develop and maintain supercomputers, and make advanced semiconductors.

"Together we're working on how to keep a free and open Indo Pacific, and quite frankly the challenges of China," Biden said at the start of their meeting.

Administration officials have reasoned that the export restrictions are necessary because China can use semiconductors to create advanced military systems including weapons of mass destruction; commit



President Joe Biden meets with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

human rights abuses; and improve the speed and accuracy of its military decision making, planning and logistics.

Slowing Beijing's access, however, will take plenty of help from allies for the U.S. export controls to have maximum impact. The Netherlands-based tech giant ASML is a major manufacturer of lithography machines that design and produce semiconductors. China is one of ASML's biggest clients.

CEO Peter Wennink played down the impact of the U.S. export control regulations soon after the administration unveiled them last fall. ASML said last year that it expected company-wide 2022 sales to be around 21 billion euros.

The U.S. has also been in talks with Japan on tougher export restrictions to limit the sale of semiconductor manufacturing technology to China. Rutte's visit comes after Biden hosted Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida last week for talks.

The U.S. and Japan, in a joint statement following

the Oval Office meeting, said the two sides agreed to "sharpen our shared edge on economic security, including protection and promotion of critical and emerging technologies."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin last week called on Japan and the Netherlands to resist U.S. pressure.

"We hope the relevant countries will do the right thing and work together to uphold the multilateral trade regime and safeguard the stability of the global industrial and supply chains," he said. "This will also serve to protect their own long-term interests."

Rutte spoke by phone on Monday with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about Saturday's Russian missile strike on an apartment building in Dnipro — one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in the nearly 11-month-old war. Authorities said the death toll from the strike rose to 40 and that 30 people remained missing Monday.

"These are horrible pictures and I think it strengthens

even more our resolve to stay with Ukraine," Rutte told reporters at the start of his meeting with Biden.

Biden praised Netherlands as one of the United States "strongest" allies, one that's proven "very, very stalwart" in its support for Ukraine since Russia launched in its invasion in February. The Netherlands has committed about \$2.7 billion (2.5 billion euros) in support for Ukraine this year. The money will be spent on military equipment, humanitarian and diplomatic efforts.

The Netherlands providing Ukraine with Patriot assistance — whether the weapons systems, missiles or training — would be a major move for the NATO ally. The training of Ukraine forces now underway in Oklahoma is to focus, in part, on how to maintain the battery that will be sent by the U.S. to Ukraine once training is complete. Each system has multiple components, including a phased array radar, a control station, computers and generators, and typically requires about 90 soldiers to operate and maintain,

however only three soldiers are needed to actually fire it, according to the Army.

Some of the ongoing maintenance support, once the Patriot is on the battlefield, will be done remotely, Ryder said.

The Dutch prime minister, for his part, praised Biden for leading the international effort to back Ukraine.

"I am convinced history will judge in 2022 if the United States had not stepped up like you did things would have been very different," Rutte said.

The two leaders were also to discuss plans for the Summit for Democracy, which they are co-hosting with Costa Rica, South Korea and Zambia in late March. Biden hosted the inaugural democracy summit in December 2021, which the administration billed as the start of a global conversation about how best to halt the backsliding of democracy.

Biden is the third U.S. president visited by Rutte, the Netherlands' longest-serving prime minister. He earlier met with Barack Obama and Donald Trump. □

Associated Press

Ex-GOP candidate charged in shootings at lawmakers' homes

By **RIO YAMAT** and
SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— A failed Republican candidate paid \$500 to four men to shoot at the homes of Democratic lawmakers, but was so unsatisfied with the shooters' work that he went along for the final drive-by, his gun jamming as bullets ripped into the bedroom of a sleeping 10-year-old girl, police said. The criminal complaint against Solomon Peña, a 39-year-old felon and self-proclaimed "MAGA king," describes how anger over his landslide defeat in November led to attacks at the homes of four Democratic lawmakers in New Mexico's largest city. A SWAT team arrested him Monday evening, police said. Peña spent nine years behind bars after his arrest in April 2007 for stealing electronics and other goods from several retail stores as part of what authorities described as a burglary crew. He was released from prison in March 2016, and had his voting rights restored after completing five years probation in April 2021, corrections officials said.

Peña ran unsuccessfully in November against incumbent state Rep. Miguel P. Garcia, the longtime Democrat representing House District 14 in the South Valley. Peña got 26% of the vote. Peña, whose criminal past had come up during his losing campaign, repeatedly made baseless claims that the election was "rigged" against him. "I dissent. I am the MAGA king," he posted the day after the election. On Nov. 15, he posted an image of himself in a "Make America Great Again" hoodie, saying "Trump just announced for 2024. I stand with him. I never conceded my HD 14 race. Now researching my options." Peña has an initial court appearance Wednesday on charges including multiple counts of shooting at a home and shooting from a motor vehicle, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon,

conspiracy and being a felon in possession of a firearm. No one was wounded in the drive-by shootings, which come amid rising threats nationwide against members of Congress, school board members, election officials and other government workers. In Kansas, a trial began this week for a man who prosecutors say threatened to kill a congressman.

The New Mexico Republican Party said that: "If Peña is found guilty, he must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Police said Peña had previously shown up uninvited at the homes of two elected officials with what he claimed were documents proving that he had won his race. There was no evidence of widespread voter fraud, or any irregularity involving enough votes to change a result, in New Mexico in 2020 or 2022.

The criminal complaint, which includes testimony from a confidential witness who said he had "personal and intimate knowledge of the crimes" and was present at most of the attacks, says Peña hired a father and son with criminal histories of their own as well as two brothers whom authorities have yet to identify. In one of their text messages, Peña complained that officials certifying the election in November "sold us out to the highest bidder."

The shootings began Dec. 4, when eight rounds were fired at the home of Bernalillo County Commissioner Adriann Barboa. Days later, state Rep. Javier Martinez's home was targeted. On Dec. 11, more than a dozen rounds were fired at the home of Bernalillo County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley, police said. The final related shooting, targeting state Sen. Linda Lopez's home, unfolded in the midnight hour of Jan. 3. Police said more than a dozen shots were fired, including three that Lopez said passed through the bedroom of her sleeping 10-year-old daughter.

The witness said one of the men told the shooters to

aim above the windows to avoid striking anyone inside, but that wasn't enough for Peña, who wanted them to shoot lower. He said Peña was there at the Lopez shooting "to ensure better target acquisition."

Peña's insistence that the men be more aggressive made the other participants uneasy "since they knew that doing so would likely end in death or injury," said the witness, who faces criminal charges and has asked for leniency. Authorities said no such promises have been made.

A lawyer for Peña who could comment on the allegations wasn't listed Tuesday in court records.

The shooting spree was "scary, not just from my personal perspective, but the



Solomon Peña, center, a Republican candidate for New Mexico House District 14, is taken into custody by Albuquerque Police officers, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in southwest Albuquerque, N.M. Associated Press

fact that our democratic processes that we believed so much in -- and that our country was founded on -- would be targeted in that

way," Martinez, the Democratic lawmaker, said at a news conference on his first day as the top-ranked House leader. □

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Groups: 'No evidence' offshore wind killing whales in NJ-NY

By **WAYNE PARRY**

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— Environmental and fishing groups said Tuesday there is "no evidence" that site preparation work for offshore wind farms in New Jersey and New York is responsible for a spate of whale deaths in the two states.

Many of New Jersey's leading environmental groups held a press conference on the Atlantic City Boardwalk directly in front of the local office of an offshore wind company to support the industry, and decry what they term a false narrative that the industry's testing activities are harming or killing whales.

The issue has become contentious since Clean Ocean Action, one of New Jersey's leading coastal environmental groups, held a news conference last week with several community groups opposed to offshore wind, calling on President Biden to investigate the deaths of seven whales in the two states in little over a month. They and several local, state and federal legislators also called for a temporary halt to offshore wind preparation work while the whale deaths are investigated.

That call has led to strong pushback from most of the state's environmental community, which repeatedly stressed that climate



A dead humpback whale lies in the surf in Brigantine N.J., on Jan. 13, 2023.

Associated Press

change is the greatest threat to the ocean and the marine mammals living in it, and that offshore wind power is essential to moving away from burning planet-warming fossil fuels. "There is no evidence that any of the recent strandings so far have been tied to offshore wind," said Allison McLeod, policy director for the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters.

"The number one threat to the marine environment is climate change. Offshore wind is one of the most important tools we have to protect the entirety of our

marine ecosystem."

"This whole thing is being brought up as a hypothesis that has no basis in fact," added Capt. Paul Eidman, a charter boat captain and head of Anglers for Offshore Wind.

"I'm concerned by some groups' baseless claims that the deaths are linked to surveys operating off our coast. We don't know that. There's no basis in reality for that."

Scientists from the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, where the most recent dead whale washed ashore last week,

said Sunday that preliminary results of a necropsy indicate the 32-foot-long female humpback whale was hit by a ship. That was also the suspected cause of death for another humpback that washed ashore in neighboring Atlantic City a week earlier.

Two of the seven animals both sperm whales are considered endangered species in the United States. Clean Ocean Action, which was not at Tuesday's press conference, issued a statement afterward defending its concern and reiterating its call for a tem-

porary halt in surveying.

"What if these ocean industrial activities were related to a fossil fuel project would that change anyone's view on a call to action?" the statement read. "When has there ever been this many industrial activities permitted in the region at the same time?"

The latest press conference came as Orsted, which will build two of the three offshore wind farms approved so far in New Jersey, described its current work in more detail. In a statement to The Associated Press, the Danish wind energy company said its survey vessels have not struck any whales, and said the sampling methods do not disturb whales or other marine mammals.

"Orsted prioritizes coexistence with our communities and marine wildlife," said Maddy Urbish, the company's head of government affairs and strategy for New Jersey.

"The offshore wind industry is subject to the most stringent level of protections for marine mammals and protected species. Every aspect of our surveys, construction, and operations are reviewed by multiple agencies and subject to protective conditions, including vessel speeds, time-of-year restrictions for construction activities, and mandatory protected species observers." □



Stephanie Beard, of Brentwood, carries a sand bag to her flooded home on Bixler Road in Brentwood, Calif., on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

By **JOHN ANTCHAK**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California's weather was calmer Tuesday after weeks of atmospheric rivers that slammed the state with

damaging rains, wind and surf that flooded homes, highways and farm fields, collapsed hillsides and toppled countless trees.

Tallying the damage will take time, but the num-

California weather calms but storm damage seen as extensive

ber of homes and other structures that will be red-tagged as uninhabitable could be in the "low thousands," said Brian Ferguson, spokesperson for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

The damage is spread across 41 of California's 58 counties, Ferguson said. Light rain and snow showers lingered in some areas, but skies were finally largely clear.

A shot of precipitation from a quick system was predict-

ed for Wednesday or Thursday, followed by a dry period, the National Weather Service said.

Forecasters cautioned that although the midweek rainfall will be light, it could be enough to cause problems because the state is so saturated.

Flood warnings remained in effect for the Salinas River in Monterey County and parts of Mariposa and Merced counties in the Central Valley.

Nine atmospheric rivers

since late December have caused power outages, flooding, levee breaks, washouts and landslides. At least 20 people have been killed.

The amount of water in the snowpack covering the Sierra Nevada and other mountain ranges is more than 250% of normal to date and 124% of the April 1 average, when the pack is normally at its peak, according to the state Department of Water Resources. □

Top EU lawmakers say no party immune to potential corruption

By **LORNE COOK**

Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France (AP)

— Senior members of the European Union's parliament conceded Tuesday that a corruption scandal ravaging the assembly's reputation could have happened to any political group, as Belgian prosecutors focus on lawmakers and an assistant from the main center-left bloc.

The leaders of a number of political groups in the European Parliament said that corruption inside the house the EU's only publicly-elected institution is almost impossible to stop, particularly if it's carried out by a few determined members with criminal intent.

German lawmaker Manfred Weber, leader of the conservative European People's Party (EPP) parliament's largest bloc said the cash-for-influence affair has caused "huge damage for the reputation of this house." He insisted, however, that "this scandal is not a party political issue."

So far, six people are suspected of links to a crime



European Parliament President Roberta Metsola delivers a speech during a plenary session, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

gang paid by Qatar and Morocco to influence parliamentary decisions. Both countries reject the allegations. The accused include Greek Socialist and Democrats lawmaker Eva Kaili and her boyfriend Francesco Giorgi, an assistant to another S&D member.

The S&D forms the second biggest group in the 705-

seat assembly. Prosecutors want the parliamentary immunity of two group lawmakers lifted.

Others have resigned from senior posts. A long-serving political advisor was also suspended over "serious misconduct related to the ongoing judicial investigation."

Parliament President Ro-

berta Metsola has unveiled an overhaul of the assembly's rules, aiming to prevent former lawmakers from lobbying on behalf of businesses or governments soon after they leave office and to make publicly available the names of current members who violate the code. Metsola also seeks tougher controls on all lob-

byists and the public listing of any meetings that lawmakers may have with them. Spot checks would be introduced on lawmakers' financial disclosures and their links to any country outside the 27-nation EU. But it's unclear whether the reforms can change old, bad habits. Current rules are already routinely ignored.

Cases of foreign funded travel continue without members declaring the paid trips, and few lawmakers signal when they are given gifts worth more than 150 euros (\$163), as they must do.

"There is a lot of readiness when there are a lot of journalists looking at what is happening, but very quickly, when the media attention has gone, also the willingness to implement reforms is gone," Greens group leader Terry Reintke told reporters in Strasbourg, France.

Manon Aubry, leader of the far-left group known as The Left, acknowledged that any new rules meant to discourage offenders must be enforced. □

Dutch Senate expands constitutional ban on discrimination

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch Senate on Tuesday approved an amendment to the country's constitution, expanding its first article to spe-

cifically ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or disability, a move hailed as historic by rights groups.

The constitution's updated Article 1 mandates that all people in the country must

be treated equally and that "discrimination on the basis of religion, belief, political opinion, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or on any other basis is not allowed."

Astrid Oosenbrug, chair of the country's COC gay rights organization, called the vote "a historic victory for the rainbow community and a crown on years of work" by the group.

She said it was "an emotional moment when, after all these years, the Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of constitutional recognition this afternoon. At last, LGBTI+ rights are proudly mentioned in Article 1 and are no longer concealed." In 2001, the Netherlands became the first country in the world to legalize gay marriage, but members of its LGBTQ community con-

tinue to suffer verbal and sometimes physical abuse in this country that has long been seen as a bastion of tolerance.

Oosenbrug said the constitutional change should be seen by lawmakers as an assignment to "tackle discriminatory violence, bullying in schools and other forms of discrimination."

A group called Ieder(in), which represents people with disabilities and chronic illness, also welcomed the vote.

"Adding the disability basis to Article 1 is historic news," the organization's director, Illya Soffer, said in a statement. "The government has been given an additional task to permanently improve and strengthen the position of people with a disability. Not only in law, but also in practice. This is

badly needed, because at the moment they experience discrimination and exclusion every day in their lives."

The move was initiated by three lawmakers in the lower house of Dutch parliament, two from opposition parties and a third from the centrist D66 party, which is part of the ruling four-party coalition led by Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

The Dutch Constitution dates back to 1798 and has been updated several times since then. Tweaking the document is a long process. Changes must be approved by a majority of both houses of parliament, then a second reading can only happen once national elections have happened and then both houses must approve any change with a two-thirds majority. □



A huge inflatable pink cake with candles spouting rainbow flames glided through the Amsterdam canals as the Dutch capital celebrated the 20th anniversary of the world's first legal same-sex marriages, Thursday, April 1, 2021.

Associated Press

World Food Program chief Somali famine slowed, not avoided

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— The head of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning World Food Program says support from donors like the United States and Germany have allowed it to postpone though not entirely avert famine in Somalia but stressed that “we’re not out of this yet.”

WFP Executive Director David Beasley said countries in the Horn of Africa have faced “unprecedented climate impact” from years of drought, and the U.N. agency had been expecting to announce famine in Somalia before donors “stepped up in magnificent ways.” “And we’ve been able to I don’t know if the right word is ‘avert’ famine but we definitely have postponed it,” he told The Associated Press at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday. “We’ve been fortunate so far, given the climate shocks inside Somalia. But we’re not out of this yet.”

But he warned that “we still could end up with a famine



World Food Program chief David Beasley speaks to The Associated Press in the village of Wagalla in northern Kenya Friday, Aug. 19, 2022.

Associated Press

technically in Somalia” because “famine-like conditions” already exist.

“Once you officially declare to be a famine, well, it’s too late,” Beasley said. Famine is the extreme lack of food and a significant death rate from outright starvation or malnutrition combined with diseases

like cholera.

A formal famine declaration means data shows more than a fifth of households have extreme food gaps, more than 30% of children are acutely malnourished and over two people out of 10,000 are dying every day.

Beasley, who has an-

nounced plans to step down in April, has parlayed his political experience as a former Republican governor of the U.S. state of South Carolina to wrest greater funding for the World Food Program from Washington under both the Biden and Trump administrations.

The United States an-

nounced \$411 million in additional funding for Somalia’s crisis last month after a report by the U.N. and other experts said more than 8 million Somalis are badly food insecure because of drought and high food prices. Thousands have died.

When Beasley took the job in 2017, some 80 million people worldwide were on the brink of starvation and faced chronic hunger. Conflict, climate change and COVID-19 have caused that to balloon to 350 million today because of economic devastation and supply-chain disruptions.

“You think you can’t get any worse. Then the breadbasket of the world is shut down: Ukraine,” Beasley said. “Now (the country has) the longest bread lines in the world,” alluding to Russia’s war that has upended food production and exports from Ukraine. There is such demand for food and fertilizer, of which Russia was a top global supplier, that nutrients for crops must get to farmers who need them. □

Greta Thunberg carried away by police at German mine protest

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Police in western Germany carried Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and other protesters away Tuesday from the edge of an open coal pit mine where they demonstrated against the ongoing destruction of a village to make way for the mine’s expansion, German news agency dpa reported.

Thunberg was among hundreds of people who resumed anti-mining protests at multiple locations in the western German state of North Rhine-Westphalia a day after the last two climate activists holed up in a tunnel beneath the village of Luetzerath left the site.

Elsewhere in western Germany, dozens of climate activists glued themselves to a main street in Ger-

many’s western city of Cologne and to a state government building in Dueseldorf.

Near Rommerskirchen, a group of about 120 activists also occupied the coal railroad tracks to the Neurath power plant, according to

police and energy company RWE.

Those who refused to leave the tracks were carried away, dpa reported.

In addition, several people occupied a giant digger at the coal mine of Inden, while hundreds of other

protesters joined a protest march near Luetzerath. The village itself was evacuated by the police in recent days and is sealed off.

Once again, there were a few clashes with the police. Several activists ran over to the Garzweiler open pit mine, according to dpa. They stood at the brink of the open pit, which has a sharp break-off edge. Police said it was dangerous and people were prohibited from staying there.

Thunberg had traveled to western Germany to participate in weekend demonstrations against the expanded mine and also took part in Tuesday’s protest near Luetzerath. Police in nearby Aachen said a group of around 50 protesters got dangerously close to the rim of the mine and did not want to leave despite being asked to do so.

All the people in that group had to be carried away from the edge of the mine and were then temporarily held to determine their identities, police said. Photos from the scene showed Thunberg was one of those whom officers took away.

One protester was able to enter the mine, RWE said, calling the move “very reckless,” dpa said.

A police spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity as is customary in Germany, said he was not permitted to give out any details on Thunberg or any other individuals who participated in the protest due to privacy rules.

Police and RWE started evicting protesters from Luetzerath on Jan. 11, removing roadblocks, chopping down treehouses and bulldozing buildings. □



Police officers carry Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg away from the edge of the Garzweiler II opencast lignite mine during a protest action by climate activists after the clearance of Luetzerath, Germany, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

Parliament unanimously approves TPEF 2023 budget

ORANJESTAD – Monday morning a meeting took place to discuss the budget for the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) 2023 in Parliament. Minister of Tourism, Mr. Dangui Oduber brought forward issues that are important to fortify our main economic pillar.

The minister thanked Parliament for unanimously approving the budget, which he said in a press release is a show that the opposition parties in Parliament agree with the work done by the current Minister of Tourism. Both fractions in the coalition as in opposition support the budget. "This is certainly an important step for the tourism development of Aruba."

TPEF is a fund created with the purpose of investing in projects that contribute to the enhancement of Aruba's touristic product. The portfolio in which TPEF invests consists of projects falling into six categories. These are: Attraction, Security, Environment, Heritage, Awareness and Investment. Parliament approved the 2023 budget which is between 2.9 and 3.3 million Florins that Aruba receives through the Room Tax and will be distributed between the different categories.

Minister Oduber mentioned that in 2023 regarding the environment, TPEF is going to finance 100 waste bins that will be placed all

around the coast of Aruba. It will also finance the study that need to be carried out for the project of Bubali Wetlands, which is a joint project between the Ministry of Environment and the Aruba National Park Foundation (FPNA). In FPNA's plan there is also a Visitor Information Center (VIC) which will also serve as an information center for the new park that need to be built. The idea is for the VIC to also serve as a museum for Aruba's nature. Minister Oduber indicated that this project is expensive and cannot be financed solely by TPEF.

Minister Oduber said he is confident that the TPEF will enhance our product



Aruba and is extremely satisfied with this important development. He thanked the fractions in Parliament of MEP, Raiz, MAS, Accion 21 and AVP for supporting

and voting in favor of the TPEF budget 2023, which he said is certainly proof of confidence in Parliament for his policy. □

Commission gathering information in Aruba for National Slavery Museum in Amsterdam

ORANJESTAD – Prime minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes met with the commission appointed by the township of Amsterdam to introduce a National Slavery Museum. Mr. John Leerdam is part of the commission as quartermaster and in relation to the introduction of this national museum in Amsterdam, is visiting the Caribbean islands belonging to the Kingdom of the Netherlands as well as Suriname to meet people in these countries who are working on the subject of slavery in order to be in contact with them and receive more information.

Minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro is currently in Curaçao to take part in a meeting with the Kingdom ministers of Education and



Culture and thus could not be present at the meeting with Wever-Croes and Leerdam.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister received a book created by the township of Amsterdam and

delivered to every citizen of Amsterdam, which contains a lot of information regarding slavery. This is in relation of the apologies offered by the township for the role that Amsterdam played in the history of slav-

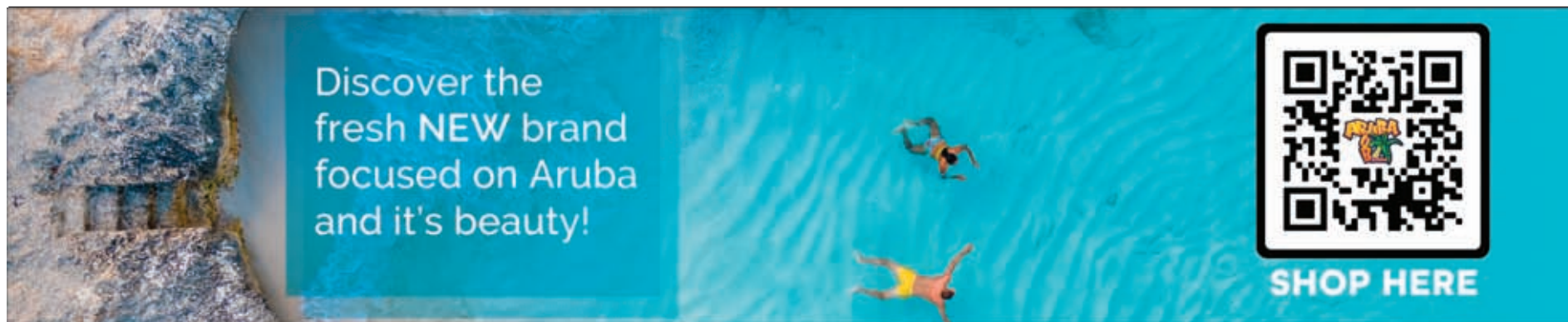
ery.

In Aruba there is a commission instituted under Minister Maduro which is working on this topic. By the 1st of July of this year, the idea is to present the plan which

Aruba has been preparing. Slavery in Aruba is not a well-known topic, thus a very important point is to provide information and awareness regarding the history of slavery in Aruba so that our people and all those visiting our island can be aware of it. By knowing about the past we can have a better influence on our future, the Prime Minister expressed.

Concluding, Wever-Croes said that members of the commission were satisfied with the information received in Aruba and that there will be more meetings to continue giving more information, because the National Museum must reflect the point of view of what Aruba lived during the period of slavery. □





Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on

the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you. □



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Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and

preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities.

After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the



origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures,

educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Let's try yuca in Aruba!

Episode CLXXXIX 189

Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what we advocate for in our own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Etnia Nativa, through this cultural blog, "Island-Insight," shares native cultural awareness, educates, and safeguards native heritage. It is how we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stay.

Have you ever tried cassava in Aruba? We believe cassava, or yuca, as it is known locally, should be designated as a world heritage food. This plant is native to Brazil and Paraguay, especially around the Amazon and Orinoco river basins. The root of this plant is used as a staple to make all kinds of foods. The roots are ground into flour and used to make a flatbread similar to a Mesoamerican tortilla. *Manihot esculenta*, commonly called cassava, manioc, yuca, macaxeira, mandioca, kappa kizhangu, and aipim, is a woody shrub that has been cultivated long before Europeans' arrival.

Amerindians spread cassava throughout tropical areas of the South, Central America, and Caribbean islands. Through modern trade, cassava has become a world food just as corn, beans, potatoes, and tomatoes have been cultivated among many Amerindian societies spreading throughout the continent, becoming staples on which great civilizations have thrived. The cassava (*Manihot esculenta*), also known as yuca, is sometimes confused with an agave species of North America. However, the plant yucca, written with two letters c (yucca), is known as the North American plant, and yuca, written with only one "c," (yuca) is the subject of our story.

Cassava, or yuca, is a root vegetable. The root can be eaten, and in some cultures it is also used as medicine. Cassava is used for tiredness, dehydration in people with diarrhea, sepsis, and to induce labor, yet there is no scientific evidence to support these claims.

Cassava is a basic food for many rural families with low resources. It has been considered a valuable food since the times of the aboriginal people, forming part of the selection of roots and tubers that the Cubans



commonly refer to as "vianda." It is known that one of the most recurrent indigenous foods in the Caribbean was the yuca, or cassava, food made from cassava that grew in these fields and predominated among the siboneyes, Caquetios, and Taínos, who were engaged in agriculture and harvested a range of crops, respectively. This was the first typical meal among most colonial Caribbean possessions—a substitute for the basic wheat bread diet. There was a saying widely used in popular Cuban slang and taken from the colonizers: "In the absence of bread, casabe."

In the United States, cassava root is also known as bitter cassava, tapioca, Brazilian arrowroot, and yuca. Cassava and tapioca flour are not the same. Tapioca is a starch extracted from the cassava root through a washing and pulping process. The moist pulp is then squeezed to extract a starchy liquid. Once all the water has evaporated from the starchy liquid, only the tapioca flour remains. Alternatively, cassava flour is the whole root, peeled, dried, and ground. This means that it has more dietary fiber than tapioca flour.

In Aruba, native farmers used to plant and eat this root in many ways. As with cassava bread, the flour was mixed with water in a mash and cooked on a hot iron or clay plate. It was also an ingredient in stew that was fried. Ground yuca root was also cooked and used as a clothing starch.

Words of the renowned DR multimedia artist, Geo Ripley: "The cassava is an Amerindian cultural patrimony that has persisted in time and space till our days and is a symbol for us of this Caribbean Sea, which has always unified us and never separated us."

Intrigued by Aruba's origins and its cultural heritage? Then we encourage you to do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa, a private residential encounter set up, where you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items of islands bygone era. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace, relaxation knowledge, and information.



Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman and island Piache, who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. Etnia Nativa is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural heritage. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

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Vacation Rental Professionals of Aruba thank the Police Force Security of vacation rental properties is extremely important for our tourism



ORANJESTAD – Recently, some acts of burglary committed in vacation rental properties caught attention, as did the fact that those responsible were caught. During the months in which the burglaries were taking place, the Vacation Rental Professionals of Aruba (VRPA) were aware of this and were working behind the curtain together with the Police Department to follow the steps of the burglars and help catch those responsible.

These incidents are regrettable since they affect our visitors, the owners of the properties, and in the end also our tourism in general, VRPA said in a press release.

The association said that the security of vacation rental properties is extremely important for the experience of the visitor. The fact that those responsible for the burglaries were caught must not rule out that there could be more people involved or that after some

time they will continue with burglaries, so it is important to remain vigilant.

In the context of maintaining long-term security of the properties, VRPA gives some tips and advice for best practices for owners of vacation rentals as well as property managers. While each vacation rental has its own security needs, there are some important basic practices to prevent burglaries.

Light and motion detectors installation

Most burglaries take place at night or before dawn, since the darkness provides the burglars with better chances of hiding in the dark and avoid being seen. Light installations and motion detectors turn on lights and indicate that there is a person on the property, and can help make identifying the burglar easier. Motion detectors can also be installed indoors.

Vacation rental automation

Nowadays, many of the

automation installations, "smart", give you control of your property from an app in your phone, tablet or laptop. Be it lights or any electronic device, these can be programmed with a timer to be turned on or off. It is important that each programming, be it light or electronic device, has a different time in which it is turned on each day in order to avoid giving a pattern that can be deduced by the potential intruder.

'Neighborhood watch'

For many years, different neighborhoods can be noted having a neighborhood watch. VRPA applauds the fact that neighbors organize as a neighborhood and have good communication for the security of every house in the area. Through a chat group, every neighbor has communication for any unusual development. Introduction of a neighborhood watch can help control burglaries. For vacation rentals, the group chat can be notified when there is a guest and

how long they will be staying.

Security camera installation

Security cameras are essential for vacation rental properties. Installation of exterior cameras on a property, whether managed by a security company or by the owner of the property, gives the advantage of always having a view of the property. These days security cameras give the owner the option of receiving a notification on their smartphone for every movement or sound. There are also cameras that have the option of speaking or alerting the person to leave the property through your phone.

Another very efficient option is installing a 'ring doorbell'. The ring doorbell is a smart doorbell that includes the installation of cameras that connect automatically with a phone and give live access when a person is in front of the house. All these installations give the

owner of vacation rentals a chance to contact the police a lot faster to notify of any suspicious activity.

Insurance

An important aspect for vacation rental is also to have insurance for burglary. This certainly helps in case those properties are victim of burglary, and also gives guests a sense of security.

VRPA advises all companies that manage vacation rentals to carry out an analysis of each property and inform each owner on how to improve security of their property.

VRPA thanks the Police Force of Aruba for their great efforts and work solving these burglaries, as well as thanking the alert community. For the protection of vacation rentals and our tourism it is important to remain vigilant for any unusual activities, and if anyone notices something strange, contact police immediately as well as the company managing the property. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Mid-month

1 Lone Star states

7 Cain's brother

11 Salem's state

12 Concert highlight

13 Coped

14 Archaeologist's find

15 City on the Passaic

17 Almanac bit

20 Assignments

23 Spanish gold

24 Discipline

26 Earth: Prefix

27 Vacuum lack

28 Low digit

29 Not neat

31 Sturgeon eggs

32 Cut's counter-part

33 Munich mister

34 Louisiana school

37 Doofus

39 Reduce to only the best

43 Workers' home

44 Concert bonus

46 Like ranked players

DOWN

1 Male turkey

2 Important time

3 Struck out

4 Deal maker

5 Network junction

6 Skiing surface

7 Houston team

8 Reader's destination

9 Shade source

10 High tennis hit

16 Isolated

17 Mist over

18 Game setting

19 Wood-burning

21 Met performer

22 Snide expression

24 Caravan creature

25 Stylish pieces

30 Piano

33 Therefore

35 Impresses

36 Muse count

37 Greek X

38 Jar part

40 Silent assent

41 Refiner's stuff

42 Tie the knot

MAPLE HEATS
ORION ASTRO
SETTING SAIL
SAY GAG DOE
AMPLE
IBIZA EXTRA
DART PEON
ONSET JENNY
CIVIL
ADS DAN BAG
SETTING BAIL
IN AWE LINDA
ASTOR ENDED

Yesterday's answer

1-18

AXYDLBAAXR
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

PI PC YXQNIY IYQI PC ZXQN
BXQNIY QMR MTI DPXWXC
TV OTNR QMR CPNGXZ.

— KQYQIKQ OQMRY P

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LET US MAKE OUR FUTURE NOW, AND LET US MAKE OUR DREAMS TOMORROW'S REALITY. — MALALA YOUSAFZAI

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Millennial Money: 4 expenses for parents to rethink in 2023

By ELIZABETH AYOOLA of NerdWallet

When inflation rises, child care expenses do, too. If you're a parent, you may be hoping to get a little financial relief during the upcoming tax season through deductions or credits. But since there have been recent reductions to both of the child tax credits, you may not get as much back as you anticipated.

If you're like me, you could end up paying the IRS instead of getting a refund from Uncle Sam. To help your money go further in 2023, you may want to reevaluate some of your recurring child-related expenses. Here are a few strategies for reducing costs, according to finance professionals.

CHILD CARE

Many of the increased tax credits and deductions parents enjoyed during the height of the pandemic are reverting to their original limits. As a result, parents should be prepared to get less back this year, says Alton Bell II, principal accountant and founder at Bell Tax Accountants & Advisors in Chicago. "I would prepare for a tax refund reduction shock because the credit around the dependent care has significantly changed," he says.

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Embattled actor Kevin Spacey lauded in Italy for achievement

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Making his first speaking appearance since #MeToo-era allegations derailed his career, actor Kevin Spacey used a colorful Italian term to thank the National Cinema Museum in the northern city of Turin Monday for having the courage to invite him.

Spacey received a lifetime achievement award from the museum, discussed key roles during a master class and then introduced the 1999 film "American Beauty," for which he won his second acting Oscar, to a sold-out crowd.

"I am truly blessed and grateful and humbled. And my heart is very full tonight toward the National Museum of Cinema for having had the "le palle" to invite me tonight," Spacey said, using the Italian word for a male body part synonymous with courage, to cheers from the master class audience.

"By presenting this award, they are making a strong defense of artistic achievement and for that they



Actor Kevin Spacey poses with an award at the National Museum of Cinema in Turin, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

should be applauded," Spacey said.

Previous winners of the Stella della Mole Award include actors Isabella Rossellini and Monica Bellucci, and director Dario Argento. The sold-out events were billed as Spacey's first speaking engagements in five years. After multiple allegations of sexual assault

surfaced, the actor lost his starring role on the Netflix series "House of Cards" and saw other opportunities dry up.

Spacey did not directly address the allegations while accepting the award or during the hourlong class. But while noting the loyalty of many fans, he said "the bond I share with them will

not be easily broken by unrestrained, ever-shifting mobocratic ties."

He choked up as he thanked his manager Evan Lowenstein for his support, calling him "the brother I never had."

Spacey said he was also "enormously grateful" to Italian director Frank Nero, who hired him for a role in

Associated Press

"The Man Who Drew God," which was filmed in Turin. Spacey will be on hand when the film will be previewed later this week in Rome.

After the master class, fans lined up to take selfies and get DVDs signed.

"I actually missed him, and I think he had a great role in the cinema. He made Netflix what it is today," said Chiara Ottolini, referring to the enormous success of "House of Cards."

Mery Bicci traveled from Milan to see Spacey, who she regards as one of the best actors ever. She said she would have traveled even further.

"When the scandal happened, I went into mourning because I knew very well that they would ostracize him right away," she said.

Spacey is scheduled to go on trial in London in June on a dozen charges alleging he sexually assaulted four men between 2001 and 2013, including when he was the artistic director at the city's Old Vic theater. He has pleaded not guilty. □

Leslie Jones promises to be herself hosting 'The Daily Show'

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedian Leslie Jones will be taking a temporary whirl as host of "The Daily Show" this week, and she says viewers can expect her trademark some blunt, edgy humor.

"I'm not Jon Stewart. I'm not Trevor Noah, I'm Leslie Jones.

So I'll be bringing that vulnerable honesty," the "Saturday Night Live" alum joked in an interview on the eve of her new gig.

Jones' stand-in as host on

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on the Comedy Central topical show yields to four more upcoming weekly gigs by comedians: Wanda Sykes, D.L. Hughley, Chelsea Handler and Sarah Silverman.

Jones' guest on Tuesday will be Morris Chestnut, starring in "The Best Man: The Final Chapters." In a video promoting her guest host gig, correspondent Roy Wood Jr. is seen helping her practice identifying prominent people like Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Supreme Court Clarence Thomas.

While this week marks the first time Jones has appeared on "The Daily Show," she's no stranger to MC-ing, having guest-hosted "The Ellen Show" and taking charge of ABC's game show revival "Supermarket Sweep."

"No assignment to me is ever different. It's always them asking for me. Pretty much what I come to deliver is me. So it's not really too much different than when I used to do updates at 'SNL' or doing standup, you know?" she said. "It's all talking."

Over the years, "The Daily Show" first hosted by Craig Kilborn, then Jon Stewart and more recently Trevor Noah has skewered the left and right by looking at the day's headlines with a jaundiced view. Noah stepped down late last year, and no permanent successor has yet been named.

On "SNL," three-time Emmy Award nominee Jones did impressions of Whoopi Goldberg, Serena Williams, Michelle Obama, Omarosa Manigault Newman and, most memorably, Donald Trump.

During her run from 2014 to 2019, she routinely hit on Colin Jost while appearing on his "Weekend Update" desk, calling him things like a "little salty oyster cracker," and showing off her complicated and fictional relationship with fellow cast member Kyle Mooney.

Her viral tweets earned her an NBC correspondent job at the 2016 and 2018 Olympics. She hosted the BET Awards in 2017 and starred in the 2016 "Ghostbusters" remake.

Jones said she has been keeping up with daily events and personalities to ensure "The Daily Show" is still topical under her watch, but she's also got stuff planned.

"We got already a lot of ideas wrapped up and what we want to do and what we want the show to look like," she said. □



Leslie Jones appears at the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

Andy Murray tops Berrettini in 5-set epic at Australian Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Metal hip, bloody knee and all, Andy Murray produced his biggest victory in years.

Murray built a huge lead, let it disappear completely, then needed to save a match point against Matteo Berrettini who is nearly a full decade younger and ranked more than 50 places higher before managing to pull out a 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (10-6) triumph across more than 4 1/2 epic hours on Tuesday in the Australian Open's first round.

"The last few years, I've certainly questioned myself at times. There's certainly a lot of people (who) questioned me and my ability, whether I could still perform at the biggest events and the biggest matches," said the 35-year-old Murray, a former No. 1 now ranked No. 66. "I felt very proud of myself after the match. That's not something that I generally felt over the years at the end of tennis matches."

This was the three-time major champion's first defeat of a top-20 opponent at a Grand Slam tournament since 2017. That was before Murray thought he would need to retire and even was given a career send-off at Melbourne Park in 2019, when he exited in the first round a year after his first hip operation.

After a second surgery inserted an artificial hip, Murray decided to try to continue playing. This sort of evening was likely what he had in mind when he pressed on and when he spent three weeks in Boca Raton, Florida, practicing under the tutelage of coach Ivan Lendl during the offseason.

"I've put a lot of work into the last few months with my team to give me the opportunity to perform on



Andy Murray of Britain plays a forehand return to Matteo Berrettini of Italy during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

stadiums like this, in matches like this, against players like Matteo," Murray told a crowd that roared with approval for him. "And it paid off tonight."

Oh, yes, what a performance it was, filled with the sort of grit that defined much of Murray's time on tour, that carried him to championships at the U.S. Open in 2012 and at Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016 and to two Olympic singles gold medals.

Murray is also a five-time runner-up at Melbourne Park, with four losses in the final to Novak Djokovic and one to Roger Federer.

"He's a great champion. I said it so many times," said Berrettini, an Italian who is one of the players chronicled in the new "Break Point" Netflix docuseries. "Personally, was great to play with that atmosphere against him. Just a great match.

Unfortunately it didn't go my way."

The night session matches that followed in Rod La-

ver Arena couldn't possibly equal the intensity and drama.

First came a 7-6 (8), 4-6, 6-1 win for the No. 2-seeded woman, Ons Jabeur, over Tamara Zidansek, followed by nine-time champion Djokovic's 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 defeat of Roberto Carballes Baena in his return to the Australian Open after being deported from the country a year ago for not being vaccinated against COVID-19. In a match that ended after 1 a.m., the second-seeded man, two-time major finalist Casper Ruud, got past Tomas Machac 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-7 (5), 6-3.

Djokovic received a loud and warm reception when he entered the court from fans who chanted his nickname and waved dozens of Serbian flags.

There were moments Tuesday when Murray played as he did a long time ago, diving to hit a volley before slamming to the blue court scraping his right leg or sprinting to somehow reach seemingly unreachable shots, then looking up into the stands at Lendl and shaking a fist while yelling, "Let's go! Come on now!" Murray raced through the first two sets in less than 1 1/2

hours before the big-hitting, big-serving Berrettini turned things around and took the match to a fifth, even coming within one point of victory at 5-4 in that set but faltering and flubbing an easy backhand.

By beating the 13th-seeded Berrettini, who was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2021, Murray became only the fifth man in the Open era with 50 match wins at the Australian Open, joining Djokovic, Federer, Rafael Nadal and Stefan Edberg.

They played under a closed roof at Laver because of temperatures that soared up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) and caused suspensions of play that lasted hours in matches on smaller courts that can't be covered. Later, a rainstorm came, creating another pause in the action, and several matches were halted in progress, with plans to resume on Wednesday.

This was the most-anticipated match of the afternoon session and lasted so long it finished after 7 p.m. local time, most definitely living up to the hype.

"Some of the tennis at the end was really good," Murray said. "It felt like that

playing; I don't know what it looked like."

Looked terrific, Andy.

Murray and Berrettini concluded with the first-to-10-points, win-by-2 tiebreaker formula that all Grand Slam events adopted for the fifth sets of men's matches and third sets of women's. Murray said it was his first experience with that relatively new format.

Make no mistake: He was far better in that decisive section of the match, jumping out to leads of 5-0 and 8-3. It ended in a bit of anticlimactic fashion: Murray's service return clipped the net cord and trickled over for a winner.

"Just a bit lucky at the end," said Murray, who next will meet Thanasi Kokkinakis or Fabio Fognini. Their match was suspended for the night with Kokkinakis five points from winning.

Murray has wondered aloud whether all of the work he put in to get back to a level of play that satisfied him was worth it.

"I need to give myself some credit, because the last few years have been tough," Murray said. "I've lost a few of those matches, those type of matches, in the Slams the last couple years."

He arrived in Australia having lost in the first or second round in seven of his nine most recent Grand Slam appearances. The other two ended in the third round.

For now, this one continues. "It's impressive what he could do after so many surgeries, after all the kilometers that he ran in his career.

It's impressive," Berrettini said. "It just shows how much he loves the game, how much he loves these kind of matches." □



After playoff dud, Brady faces choice of whether to continue

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — If Tom Brady retires in the offseason, he'll walk away following one of the worst playoff games of his career.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion had a tough night against Micah Parsons and the Dallas Cowboys, tossing his first red-zone interception with the Buccaneers in a 31-14 loss that ended Tampa Bay's up-and-down season Monday night.

Brady won't be returning home to the Bay Area for a rematch against Brock Purdy and the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC divisional round. He may be going home for good, however.

The 45-year-old, five-time Super Bowl MVP already retired once after last season only to return 40 days later. He said he'll take more time to make his decision this time around.

"It'll be one day at a time, truly," Brady said.

Brady waved his cap to the crowd as he jogged off the field for perhaps the final time and stopped to kiss his parents before heading into the tunnel.

Before leaving the podium, Brady thanked reporters, saying: "Hopefully, you know, I love this organization. It's a great place to be and thank you everybody



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) stands on the field during the second half of an NFL wild-card football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

for welcoming me. ... Very grateful for the respect and hopefully I gave the same thing back to you guys."

Brady had been 7-0 against Dallas before this game, including a 19-3 road win in Week 1.

Though he was only sacked twice, the Cowboys pressured him into several throwaways and forced a bunch of ill-advised passes. He threw a career-most 66 passes, completing 35 of them for 351 yards, two TDs and one interception. Brady had 65 attempts for

New England against San Francisco on Dec. 16, 2012. After the Buccaneers went three-and-out on their first two possessions, Brady led a long drive before things fell apart.

On first down from the Cowboys 22, Brady rolled to his right and had open field in front of him but threw incomplete across his body into quadruple coverage in the left corner of the end zone. A few plays later from the Cowboys 5, Brady threw the ball up for grabs in the back of the

end zone where the closest player was Cowboys safety Jayron Kearse, who made the pick. "Not the way we wanted to end it but we didn't deserve it," Brady said. "Give them credit. They played a good game, made a lot more plays than we did."

Brady hadn't been shut out in the first half of playoff game since his first one in 2001, the Tuck Rule game on Jan. 19, 2002. The Patriots rallied to beat the Raiders in that game.

Brady and the Bucs (8-10)

had no chance for a comeback against Dallas (13-5). Parsons and Co. dominated Brady from start to finish. "It was typical of the way we played all year, inefficient in the pass game, not very good in the run game, so it's hard to beat good teams like that," Brady said. The Bucs finally found the end zone when Brady connected with Julio Jones on a 30-yard TD pass right before the end of the third quarter. But Tampa's defense gave a TD right back and the Bucs couldn't score after reaching the Cowboys 2 on their next drive.

Brady's worst playoff loss was 33-14 to the Baltimore Ravens on Jan. 10, 2010. This one came close.

It was a tumultuous season personally for Brady. His marriage to Gisele Bündchen ended when they announced in October that their divorce was finalized. He had the first losing season of his 23-year career, though the Buccaneers won the woeful NFC South and earned the No. 4 seed. Brady is set to become a free agent, so he could choose to continue his unprecedented career with another team.

There will be plenty of interest in a player who turns 46 in training camp next season. □

Record-chasing Cavendish extends career by joining Astana



Britain's Mark Cavendish, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 219.9 kilometers (136.6 miles) with start in Nîmes and finish in Carcassonne, France, on July 9, 2021.

Associated Press

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

AP Sports Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Veteran sprinter Mark Cavendish might still get a chance to claim the outright record for stage wins at the Tour de France.

Cavendish has joined Astana-Qazaqstan to extend his storied career by one season and will be hoping to ride for the Kazakh team at cycling's biggest race in July. The 37-year-old British road champion and cycling great Eddy Merckx currently top the all-time list with 34 stage wins.

"The joy of riding my bike and the hunger to con-

tinue winning are as bright as ever," Cavendish said in a statement provided by Astana on Tuesday. "As always, the objective will be for us to stand on the top podium."

Cavendish equaled Merckx's record at the 2021 Tour de France, 13 years after his first stage win. Cavendish who has never won the Tour, unlike five-time champion Merckx was not selected for last year's edition by his former Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl team.

Astana is managed by former Olympic road champion Alexander Vinokourov. Adding a big name

like Cavendish's to its roster is a welcome move for the team following the retirement of Vincenzo Nibali, and the firing in December of Miguel Angel Lopez for his alleged links with a doctor suspected of drug trafficking.

"He is the best sprinter of all time," Vinokourov said about Cavendish. "The arrival of a top sprinter in our team is kind of a challenge for us, but we are ready for it. The goals however are still the same victories in any kind of race: classics, stages in different stage races and, of course, in the Grand Tours. □